

Readings from Matthew chapter 21—December 4th-11th, 2021

¹⁸ Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. ¹⁹ And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately the fig tree withered away. ²⁰ And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?” ²¹ So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. ²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Sunday: **Compare Mark 11:12-24 with this passage.** **Give thanks** with Living Way (Bryan, Tex.) RPC for the Lord’s provision of a larger meeting space; **pray** that the new space would be used for further ministry to the glory of God.

Monday: **Is prayer a magic formula?** **Give thanks** for First (Cambridge, Mass.) RPC’s 125th anniversary celebration, which happened in spite of COVID and a tropical storm; **pray** for many more years of faithful service to Christ. **Pray** for our brothers and sisters in China, to be faithful in the midst of persecution.

Tuesday: **For what should we pray in faith?** **Read Luke 11:1-4.** **Please pray** that the Lord would protect students from Topeka, Kan., RPC in various schools; **pray** also for the eight public school teachers from the congregation. **Pray** for Central Geelong Fellowship Group (Australia), giving thanks for its growth this past year.

²³ Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” ²⁴ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: ²⁵ The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Wednesday: **How does Jesus defeat His enemies?** **Give thanks** with Rose Point (New Castle, Pa.) RPC for their students who have successfully completed the first semester studies of this school year. **Pray** for Frankston (Australia) RPC.

Thursday: **Why were His enemies afraid of the people?** **Give thanks** to God for His love and care over Hope Community (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC through their first year of being organized. **Pray** for Loughbrickland (Northern Ireland) RPC.

Friday: **Why did the chief priests and elders hate Jesus?** **Give thanks** to the Lord for His adding of communicant and covenant members to His church in Ottawa, Ont., RPC this year. **Pray** for Ballymoney (Northern Ireland) RPC Girls Brigade.

Saturday: **Please pray** for the Classical Conversations group that is meeting in Sycamore (Kokomo, Ind.) RPC’s building; **pray** also for greater outreach by the congregation into the community. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

*The Lord’s Day
December 5, 2021*

Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)
Atlanta, Georgia
Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Job 38:4-7

*The Invocation

*Psalm 100A

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:9-18

*Psalm 147A

“Praise Ye the Lord, For It Is Good”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 8A

“O Lord, Our Lord, in All the Earth”

Scripture Text

The Sermon

“Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 2)

*Prayer

*Psalm 136A [stanzas 1-8]

“O Thank the Lord, For Good Is He”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134B

“Bless the Lord, All Servants of the Lord”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”—Psalm 51:5-6.

“Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!”—Psalm 47:6.

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment? A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament? A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

“Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 2)

Psalm 136:4-9

The psalmist gives us abundant reason for thanksgiving.

I. Three-fold Summons to Give Thanks (vv. 1-3)

II. God’s Work as Creator (vv. 4-9)

A. He alone does great wonders

B. To Him that by wisdom made the heavens (Prov. 3:19)

C. To Him that stretched forth the earth above the waters

D. To Him that made great lights

E. The sun to rule by day

F. The moon and stars to rule by night

Application

A. When you look at creation around you, remember to give thanks to God

B. But remember, that your giving of thanks to God can only be done via His mercy